

DAILY HONOLULU PRESS.

VOLUME I.

HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1885.

NO. 19

HE CROSSED WITH BLONDIN.

Harry Colcord, the man who, when a youth, was carried over the falls of Niagara on the shoulders of Blondin, the rope-walker, writes his recollections of that famous event as follows:

Blondin had instructed me what I should do. I was to put my weight on his shoulders by my arms and clasp his body about with my legs. But I could not put my weight on his shoulders. I had to keep all the weight on his shoulders. In July, 1866, we went across. I took my place on Blondin's back and he began the descent from the Canadian side on the rope. By reason of the fact that I had to bear my weight on his shoulders, and had to use my arms and with main strength to support myself, frequent rests were necessary. I told Blondin when I wanted to rest, and then I dropped down on the rope on one foot and waited till my arms were relieved, when I would spring up again, using only my arms to lift and hold myself in place. There was a great crowd there. I did not see them at first. I do not remember what I thought. From my place on Blondin's back I could look out to the other shore and see below me the stunted pines thrusting their sharp points up from the edge of the foaming water, ready to split us if we fell. I remember, too that I was anxious to get over, and I recall, too, that the great rope before us made swings from side to side. We afterward knew that the rope swung forty feet at the centre, and I felt the necessity of preserving myself-possessed, and I did it. There was a forty-foot length between the guy one side and those of the other that it was impossible to make steady.

It was the middle span. Below us 250 feet roared the river, and over it we swung from side to side, still moving on steadily, however. Blondin never trembled. When we had gone about ten feet on the middle span, somebody on the American side pulled the outer guy-line. We afterward found out it was done intentionally, and the rope was stopped in its swing. Blondin stopped, and his pole went from side to side, in a vain effort to enable him to secure his balance. At one time it was up and down on the right side, at another up and down on the left, and I recall now with wonder that I was only curious to know whether he would succeed in getting control of himself or not.

I didn't feel any fear. Failing of getting his balance, he started to run across the horizontal span, and we safely reached the point where the guy-rope came out from the American shore. Then, to steady himself, Blondin put his foot on the guy-rope and tried to stop, but the guy-line broke, and with a dash of speed he ran swiftly twenty-five feet further to the next point, where the guys met the main rope. Then he recovered his balance, and whispered, rather than said:

"Descendez vous." The perspiration stood out on his neck and shoulders in great beads, and we balanced ourselves on the swaying rope. Presently he said, "Allons," and I raised myself to his shoulders, and we went on in safety and without incident toward the shore. It was not until we landed that I appreciated what had been done. Then it occurred to me that the man who pulled the guy-line was one of those who bet that the feat would never be accomplished, and my indignation mastered any reactionary feeling of fear.

You see, many thousands of dollars were bet upon the ability of Blondin to carry a man over, and human cupidity stops at no sacrifice. Then there were the congratulations and the praise of pluck and the rest of it, so that in my foolish, boyish elation I forgot everything else. I do remember—as we approached the shore—the wonderful tableau of the 100,000 people who stood gazing at us. Thousands of them turned their faces away, or half-turning, cast glances over their shoulders at us.

I remember their white faces, their strained positions of anxiety—women who stared, white and motionless, and men who wept, and as we drew near the bank the crowd surged toward us, and Blondin stopped, fearing they would push each other over the precipice. Then the crowd was still again, and with a quick run we came to the ground. I remember one man seizing me in his arms and lifting me high in the air, saying:

"Thank God, this thing is over!"

Tom Hyer, the prize fighter, was there, and looked at me through the tears that fell so rapidly as to almost blind him, and said: "Oh, you little cuss!"

The removal of the impediments to the navigation of the Danube at the "Iron Gate" is to be carried out at last, in conformity with the stipulations of the treaty of Berlin. The Hungarian Government has decided to have the work executed within four years from January next. The cost is estimated at 12,000,000 florins, one-fourth of which amount will be provided for in budget for the year 1886. By thus opening a free communication by water between Vienna and the Black Sea, Austria will gain politically as well as commercially.

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Losses paid through Honolulu Agency, \$40,000
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11th " 713.25 3,005
12th " 728.25 3,255
13th " 743.25 3,465
14th " 758.25 3,720
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BISHOP & Co., AGENTS.
ESTABLISHED 1836.
Unlimited Liability to Stockholders.
Assets, \$3,250,000.
Reserve, \$3,250,000.
INCOME FOR 1879:
Premiums received after deduction of re-
insurance, \$5,378,995.
Losses promptly adjusted and paid here.
210-251

UNION MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY
of San Francisco.
CASTLE & COOKE, AGENTS.
Incorporated 1875. 210-251

NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL LIFE
Insurance Company of Boston, Mass.
INCORPORATED 1835.
Assets January 1st, 1884, nearly \$17-
000,000.
Policies issued on the most favorable terms, and
absolutely Non-Forfeitable after Two
Payments.
EXAMPLE OF NON-FORFEITURE PLAN:
Insured age 35 years—20 years Endowment Plan for
\$5,000.
Annual Premium \$249.50.
At the end of the 2d Year. Cash-Sure. Yr. Pd-up Ins.
3d " 350.86 \$ 545
4th " 463.25 1,139
5th " 517.35 1,415
6th " 563.25 1,665
7th " 603.25 1,970
8th "